



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2007

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State OES Welcomes News that 17 California Projects Are Finalists for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funds

SACRAMENTO – Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Director Henry Renteria today welcomed news from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) that 17 pre-disaster mitigation projects sponsored by city, county and other public agencies in California are among the 210 nationwide finalists for federal funding.

The nearly \$13 million in funding tentatively approved for the California-based projects plus an additional \$1.5 million awarded to OES for technical assistance and administration brings the total 2007 federal allocation for California to approximately \$14.5 million, just under the \$15 million per-state maximum allowed by law.

"California has long been recognized as a leader in mitigation for earthquakes and other disasters," said Director Renteria. "The selection of 17 locally-sponsored projects underscores the cost-effectiveness and quality of the projects submitted for consideration by city, county and public agencies in California. I applaud both the hard work of those who formulated the projects and their commitment to reducing deaths, injuries and property losses through planning and preventive measures."

More than 400 planning and project applications were considered for funding by a panel of 160 local, state, tribal and federal mitigation experts. Selection criteria included the hazard risk to the community, the cost-effectiveness of each project and the technical feasibility of each project.

Heading the list of California-based finalists is the City of Santa Ana, with a combined \$6 million in federal funding approved for two separate structural mitigation projects at St. Joseph's Hospital; the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, with \$3 million tentatively approved for a storm water management project; and the City of Albany, with more than \$1.7 allocated for a seismic upgrade of its fire station, police station and city hall.

Other projects identified as finalists by DHS include seismic retrofits of the McCambridge Recreation Center in Burbank (\$671,606), the City of Calistoga's fire department (\$530,316), four reservoir sites operated by the Cucamonga Valley Water District (\$479,250) and a Burbank fire station (\$362,950).

Rounding out the list of finalists from California are Contra Costa County (\$168,749 for its multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan), the City of Inglewood (\$99,623 for its multi-hazard mitigation plan), Crescent City/Del Norte County (\$93,743 for its multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard plan), Calaveras County (\$51,334 for its multi-hazard mitigation plan), the City of Benicia (\$48,750 for local hazard mitigation plan development) and Nevada City (\$26,948 for wildfire fuel reduction in the Deer Creek area).

In order to receive the funding, the finalists must meet all pre-award requirements established by DHS, including the verification of matching funds and completion of all necessary environmental reviews.

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